



# MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 4, 2013

TO: Chairman Carlson and Members of the Planning Commission

FROM: Paul Inghram, AICP, Comprehensive Planning Manager, PCD 452-4070  
[pinghram@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:pinghram@bellevuewa.gov)  
Nicholas Matz AICP, Senior Planner, PCD 452-5371  
[nmatz@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:nmatz@bellevuewa.gov)

SUBJECT: 2014 Comprehensive Plan Update – Transportation Element; Parks, Open Space & Recreation Element; and Urban Design Element

At the June 12, 2013, study session staff will present three of the remaining chapters, or “elements,” of the Comprehensive Plan:

- Transportation
- Parks, Open Space & Recreation
- Urban Design

This briefing will familiarize the Commission with current City policy for these three categories and begin to identify where there are opportunities for changes to respond to the community’s changing needs. No action is requested at this time. Attachment 1 provides an existing elements review schedule.

## BACKGROUND

The Planning Commission began its review of the Comprehensive Plan as part of this update process with a study session on the Community Vision on June 13, 2012. Following the City Council’s formal initiation of the update, the Planning Commission participated in the January 24, 2013, Joint Boards and Commissions Forum, where seven of the city’s boards and commissions identified their vision for the future of Bellevue. The Commission continued with an initial review of the Land Use Element on February 13, 2013, and a review of the Housing and Human Services Elements with a presentation on housing needs in a joint meeting with the Human Services Commission on March 13, 2013. The Introduction, Citizen Participation and Annexation sections for the plan were reviewed on April 10, 2013.

This study session will provide the Commission with an opportunity to review components of the existing Comprehensive Plan and begin to identify where updates are likely or necessary. Some aspects of the plan are clearly out of date and will need to be updated. Other updates may be identified as the City continues its analysis. At future study sessions later this year staff will present gap analyses and recommendations for changes that build on these initial update discussions. One may think of the update process as having four fundamental steps:

1. Introduction and overview of elements (this study session)
2. Review best practices, and consider opportunities and gaps

3. Identify policy themes and direction
4. Draft specific policy amendments

This study session will review the Transportation, Park, Open Space & Recreation, and Urban Design elements of the Comprehensive Plan:

- The Transportation Element's Goal is to maintain and enhance mobility for residents and businesses through the creation and maintenance of a balanced transportation system that is designed to provide for a variety of alternative transportation options and reduce auto dependency by providing viable travel choices. The element strengthens the linkages between planning for transportation and land use. The Transportation Element provides direction to the transportation facility plans (TFP) in Volume 2. These TFPS in turn identify the road and transit facilities needed to implement transportation policy in the Comprehensive Plan
- The Parks, Open Space and Recreation Element reflects park system goals which respond to the vision of Bellevue as a "City in a Park." These include acquiring, developing and maintaining the city's park system; acquiring and preserving natural open space and habitat, providing facilities that are responsive to community needs; and offering a wide variety of education, recreation, and social opportunities for all members of the community. The policies in this Element are closely aligned with two functional plans, the Parks & Open Space System Plan and the Recreation Program Plan. These documents add detail and direction to the Comprehensive Plan Policies and allow the City to pursue partnership and funding opportunities to leverage the City's local investment in parks and recreation.
- The Urban Design Element guides public and private development to create a city that is diverse, people oriented, aesthetically appealing, and functionally understandable. It provides a design framework for community development and guidelines for new construction and improvements while protecting the city's positive characteristics.

## NEXT STEPS

The City Council is scheduled to continue its review of the update project, including the work program, at its June 10, 2013, meeting. The outcome of that Council discussion may further define the project and update process. With that caveat, the upcoming Planning Commission meetings could focus on the following aspects of the update:

- June 26: Review Council direction and the Capital Facilities, Utilities, and Economic Development elements of the plan
- July 10: Workshop discussion of community gathering places, culture and diversity; review analyses of housing and human services issues
- July 24: Debrief on the ongoing Best Ideas campaign, review the ideas submitted by the public through that forum and other outreach; review analysis of parks and recreation issues

This schedule of topics is subject to change as individual work items are developed. Additionally, the city is continuing to engage the public through a series of Best Ideas open houses in June. These open houses, held at different community locations, will continue to solicit input to the online [Best Ideas](#) campaign and encourage involvement in the 2014 CPU:

- June 5: Lake Hills Library 10am – 12pm
- June 12: Downtown Library 3pm – 5 pm
- June 21: Crossroads 12pm – 2pm
- June 21: Best Ideas Spotlight @ Microsoft Store 6pm – 8pm

# ATTACHMENT 1

Topics shown shaded are on for June 12, 2013, Planning Commission

Chapter or Element	Description	PC Review
Introduction	This the first chapter the public sees. It sets the historic context for the Comprehensive Plan and at the same time holds the future oriented Vision 2025 statements. The Vision is the foundational part of the plan, establishing the vision for what the community wants to be like in the future.	6/13/12
Citizen Participation	This element follows the Introduction and lays out policy for how the public engages and influences city planning.	4/10/13
Land Use	This element addresses the general location and distribution of land uses within the city and provides the framework for other plan elements that guide other aspects of land use.	2/13/13
Housing	The goal of this element is to maintain the strength, vitality, and stability of single family and multifamily neighborhoods and to promote a variety of housing opportunities to meet the needs of all members of the community.	3/13/13
Capital Facilities		6/26/13
Utilities		6/26/13
Transportation	This element maintains and enhances mobility for residents and businesses through the creation and maintenance of a balanced transportation system designed for a variety of transportation options and reduce auto dependency by providing viable travel choices.	6/12/13
Economic Development		
Environmental		
Human Services	This element's goal is to create a community in which all members have the ability to meet their basic physical, economic, and social needs, and the opportunity to enhance their quality of life.	3/13/13
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	This element reflects goals for the vision of Bellevue as a "City in a Park." These include acquiring, developing and maintaining the city's park system; acquiring and preserving natural open space and habitat, providing facilities that are responsive to community needs; and offering a wide variety of education, recreation, and social opportunities.	6/12/13
Shoreline Management Program		
Urban Design	The Urban Design Element guides public and private development to create a city that is diverse, people oriented, aesthetically appealing, and functionally understandable.	6/12/13
Annexation	This element uses its policies to manage the city's growth through annexation. This has historically been significant. Now, with annexations nearly complete, it has less relevance.	4/10/13
Glossary		